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Letter dated 2 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 31 August 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 16 to 23 August 2000 they carried out 228 sorties, 74 of them from Saudi Arabia, 64 from Kuwait and 90 from Turkey.

The Minister urges the Security Council to meet its responsibilities with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom and with the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 2 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 228 sorties in the period from 16 to 23 August 2000, 74 of them from Saudi Arabia, 64 from Kuwait and 90 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 90 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1035 hours on 16 August 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Mosul, Ayn Zalah, Zakho and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1030 hours on 17 August 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq s airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Irbil, Rawanduz, Baibo, Tall Afar, Zakho, Ayn Zalah and Mosul areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1405 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1215 hours on 18 August 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 22 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Irbil, Zakho, Ayn Zalah, Aqrah, Rawanduz, Tall Afar and Mosul areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1450 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1100 hours on 19 August 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Irbil, Zakho, Tall Afar and Mosul areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1335 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 2030 hours on 23 August 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 12 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Irbil, Zakho, Dohuk and Aqrah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2225 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 138 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 2155 hours on 16 August 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 54 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 38 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Salman, Basrah, Qal'at Salih, Qurnah, Samawah, Amarah, Artawi, Hayy, Diwaniyah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2400 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1655 hours on 17 August 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18 and Tornado aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Amarah, Ashbajah, Busayyah, Jalibah and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1810 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1010 hours on 19 August 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, Nukhayb, Qurnah, Amarah, Najaf and Kut areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1320 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1230 hours on 21 August 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Ukhaydir, Samawah, Taqtaqanah, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah, Najaf, Artawi, Rifa'i, Qal'at Sukkar, Lasaf, Amarah, Nukhayb, Afak, Salman, Ali al-Gharbi and Shatrah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1340 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 2025 hours on 22 August 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 12 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Lasaf, Salman, Samawah, Taqtaqanah, Shatrah, Afak, Diwaniyah, Qurnah, Nukhayb, Artawi, Ukhaydir and

Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1040 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against civilian targets and Iraqi civilian installations, urges the Security Council to perform its assigned duties with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security [by intervening with the Governments of the countries in question] with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq